

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8103

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 4152

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, IR

SUBJ: GOI CONCERN OVER FOREIGN INFLUENCE IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

REF: A. TEHRAN 2085, B. TEHRAN 4115, C. TEHRAN 3700

SUMMARY: IRANIAN GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN MOST NOTABLY AND RECENTLY PRIME MINISTER HAVE REEMPHASIZED THEME OF UNSAVORY FOREIGN INFLUENCE FIRST HEARD IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING FEB18 TABRIZ RIOTS. CURRENT STATEMENTS STRESS DANGER OF IDEOLOGICAL "IMPERIALISM" FOR IRAN AND CONTAIN DEFINITE ANTI-WEST AS WELL AS ANIT-COMMUNIST TINGE. EMBASSY SPECULATES GOI MAY BE RETURNING TO FOREIGN DANGERS THEME AT LEAST PARTLY AS A WAY OF FINESSING EMERGENT TENSIONS OF AND PROBLEMS WITH DOMESTIC LIBERALIZATION BY LAYING BLAME TO EXTERNAL INFLUENCES, NOT GOI'S WON ACTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. OVER PAST TWO WEEKS SENIOR RESURGENCE PARTY FUNCTIONARIES HAVE RETURNED TO THEME OF DANGERS POSED TO IRAN BY "RED AND BLACK" IMPERIALISM. SHAH REFERRED TO THIS IN IMMEDIATE POST-TABRIZ RIOT PERIOD (REF A), FOLLOWING WHICH EMPHASIS WAS PLACED ON PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE FAILINGS FOR SHORT TIME. SHARPTTEST USE OF THIS TECHNIQUE HAS BEEN BY RESURGENCE PARTY DEPUTY SECRETARY
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GENERAL REZA AMELI ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN PROVINCIAL SPEECHES.

2. MOST AUTHORITATIVE

STATEMENT OF THIS VIEW WAS DELIVERED BY PRIME MINISTER ON APRIL 30 TO GRADUATES OF AIR FORCE COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE IN TEHRAN. (MOST COMPREHENSIVE AND BEST NEWS

COVERAGE BEING POUCHED DEPT.) AFTER LISTING "HIGHLIGHTS" OF SHAH'S GUIDELINES FOR CONTEMPORARY MAN "TO LIVE WITH DIGNITY AND FREEDOM AT THE INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS," PRIME MINISTER PAINTED TWO CONTRASTING FORMS OF NEOCOLONIALISM.

3. FIRST IS THAT PRACTICED BY WESTERN SOCIETIES STEMMING FROM THEIR SYSTEM OF "EXPLOITATION OF ONE INDIVIDUAL BY ANOTHER". THESE SOCIETIES STILL SUFFER FROM RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND CONTAIN LARGE CAPITALIST CONSPIRACIES ON AN INTERNATIONAL SCALE WHICH DOMINATE OTHER NATIONS' WEALTH, DEPRIVING THIRD WORLD NATIONS OF "REQUIREMENTS OF LIFE" BUT LEAVING THEM DEPENDENT ON ADVANCED NATIONS FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. "THESE INEQUITIES CAUSE CORRUPTION, SABOTAGE, TERRORISM AND PLOTS TO DISRUPT AND CAUSE ANXIETY IN SOCIETIES."

4. SECOND FORM OF IMPERIALISM IS THAT OF NEW CLASS OF EXPLOITERS WHO CRITICIZE WESTERN INEQUITIES BUT HAVE ESTABLISHED SOCIETIES WHERE "INDIVIDUALS ARE DEPRIVED OF THEIR MOST BASIC FREEDOMS AND ARE BROUGHT UP WITH A SENSE OF HATE AGAINST THE WORLD. THESE ARE TOTALITARIAN SYSTEMS USING THE NAME OF FREEDOM IN AN EFFORT TO DOMINATE THE WORLD." THEY FOSTER "EVERY TYPE OF AGITATION, REBELLION AND TERRORISM", CREATING ANTAGONISTIC OPPOSING GROUPS TO DIVIDE PEOPLE, INSPIRING "RELIGIOUS AND

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SECTARIAN DIFFERENCES AIMED AT DAMAGING NATIONAL UNITY".

5. PRIME MINISTER CONCLUDES THAT IN CONTEMPORARY WORLD, THOSE SEEKING DOMINATION, "WHETHER THEY BE FROM EAST OR WEST, RED OR BLACK", WANT TO CONTROL OTHER COUNTRIES, SECURITY SO THEY CAN DESTROY A COUNTRY WHENEVER THEY WISH.

6. EMBASSY COMMENT: GOI MAY BE RETURNING TO FOREIGN DANGER THEME BECAUSE IT IS EASIER (AND TRADITIONALLY PERSIAN) TO ASCRIBE PROBLEMS TO EVIL FOREIGN INFLUENCE THAN TO DEAL HEAD-ON WITH DOMESTIC CAUSES. WHILE IRANIANS FEAR SOVIET SUBVERSION, FROM AN EMOTIONAL AND HISTORICAL POINT OF VIEW THEY CAN ALSO GET WORKED UP AGAINST WESTERN IDEAS (AND OIL COMPANIES).
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